

Preschool Crew Leader Guide



What's a Crew Leader for Preschoolers?

If you've been asked to be a Crew Leader for preschoolers, you've met two important qualifications: You love the Lord, and you love children.

During Treasured, you'll visit different activities with a group of three to five children. *You're not in charge of preparing or teaching activities; your role is to love, encourage, and enjoy the children in your Crew.* The following guidelines will help you be the most awesome Crew Leader.



A Crew Leader for preschoolers is...

- ◆ a friend and helper,
- ◆ someone who helps children complete activities,
- ◆ someone who gets down on the floor to interact with children,
- ◆ someone who encourages kids, and
- ◆ someone who supports the Kinkajou Cove Preschool staff.

Use these helpful tips:

- ◆ Learn the names of the children in your Crew, and call children by name often.
- ◆ Help children work at their own pace. You'll have 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds in your Crew. You'll probably notice big differences in motor skills (such as cutting and coloring) between older and younger children. Encourage 5-year-olds to help younger children when possible.
- ◆ Look into preschoolers' eyes when you speak to them. You may need to kneel or sit on the floor to do this.
- ◆ Empower children by offering them choices. Ask "Would you like to make a craft or play with blocks?" Don't ask "What do you want to do?" or children may decide they want to do activities that are unavailable or inappropriate.



Here's What You'll Do

- ▶ **Arrive at least 20 minutes early each day.** Report to the Kinkajou Cove Preschool area on Day 1 and the Sing & Play Rock area on Days 2 through 5, and be ready to greet children who arrive early. Your welcoming presence will bring smiles to anxious faces! (Besides, the Preschool Director may have some special instructions for you.)
- ▶ **Greet each child by name and with a warm smile.** Help children put on their name badges each day.
- ▶ **Sit with the children in your Crew during group activities.** Keep your Crew members together, and help them participate in the activities at Sing & Play Rock and Vine Dining Snacks.
- ▶ **Accompany children to preschool stations.** If necessary, read the instructions at each station, and help children complete the activities. Distribute supplies as needed.
- ▶ **Always make sure all children are accounted for before leaving the room!** Be sure children hold hands or a rope as you rotate between stations. Never grab, pinch, or pull children as you travel. Remember to use kind, gentle, positive words. If a child lags behind, remind him or her to stay with the Crew. You might want to walk behind your Crew so you can keep all the children in view and avoid traveling too fast.
- ▶ **Help children think about how we can see what God is doing all around us.** Talk about how fun it is to see the amazing things God has made or the way God shows his love to us. (Those are called God Sightings!)
- ▶ **Help children with their Bible Memory Buddies.** Every day, children receive an adorable Bible Memory Buddy. You'll help them put the Buddies in their Treasure Totes. Then they'll get to take their entire collection home at the end of the week.
- ▶ **Repeat the daily Bible Point often.** Every activity at Treasured focuses on one simple, memorable Bible truth called the Bible Point. The more children hear or say the Bible Point, the more likely they are to remember it and apply it to their lives. Kids will be listening for the Bible Point so they can respond by pointing in a sweeping motion and saying, "You are treasured!"
- ▶ **Keep track of your Crew members' name badges and Buddies.** Put these in a Crew bag, and keep the bag in a convenient place in your classroom or church at the end of the day. Send them home with the children at the end of the week.
- ▶ **Help children collect their Bible Activity Sheets, Sciency-Fun Gizmos, and crafts after Closing Circle.** Children will take these home at the end of each day.
- ▶ **Report any potential discipline problems to the Preschool Director.** He or she will help you handle the problems appropriately.
- ▶ **Release children only to a designated parent or caregiver.** If an unfamiliar adult comes to pick up a child, refer the adult to the Preschool Director.
- ▶ **Assist the Preschool Director with cleanup and preparation for your next meeting.**



What Do I Do at Each Station?

Sing & Play Rock is where kids worship by singing upbeat action songs. Your job at Sing & Play Rock is to

- ◆ greet your Crew members in your designated seating area.
- ◆ follow the motions and sing out loud.

Exploration Stations allow preschoolers to ease into their day by choosing from a variety of hands-on activities. Your job during Exploration Stations is to

- ◆ let children freely move from one center to the next. Some children may spend the entire 15 minutes at one area, while others will move through all of them. That's okay!
- ◆ explain the activity instructions to preschoolers—you'll find instructions at each station.

Bible Adventures & Missions is where kids experience the Bible story. Your job at Bible Adventures is to

- ◆ listen carefully to hear how Crew Leaders should help out that day.
- ◆ encourage Crew members to participate.
- ◆ share during discussion times and participate in each Bible adventure.

Games is where kids play team-building games. Your job at Games is to

- ◆ listen carefully to the instructions so you can help your Crew members follow them.
- ◆ participate in each activity, and cheer on your Crew members as they participate.

Craft & Play is a *fun* time full of sensory activities where kids can be creative, get a little messy, and lock in what they're learning each day. Your job at Craft & Play is to

- ◆ help keep messes to a minimum while still allowing kids to have fun with the art supplies.
- ◆ listen carefully to the instructions and remind your Crew of what to do as needed.
- ◆ Affirm kids' creativity.
- ◆ mark your Crew members' projects with their names and set them in a designated area until the end of the day.

Vine Dining Snacks is where Crews come for a tasty snack. Your job at Vine Dining Snacks is to

- ◆ gather your Crew in a designated area.
- ◆ help your Crew listen as the snacks leader explains how snack time works.
- ◆ help kids clean hands before eating.

- ◆ lead kids in discussing how the snack connects to the day's Bible verse by following a handout.
- ◆ help kids clean up your area before leaving.

KidVid™ Cinema is where kids watch a video of *real* kids' discoveries about how God treasures them. Your job at KidVid Cinema is to

- ◆ encourage kids to tune in and watch the video.
- ◆ lead your Crew in participating in the activities before and after the video.
- ◆ lead kids in discussion when it's called for.

In KidVid Cinema, kids will discuss real-life examples of hard times, fears, and what it means to live forever in heaven. Don't worry! Each of these is handled in a kid-appropriate way. The kids in your Crew may share very real experiences with you. Don't feel like you have to have all the answers! Use the Bible Points to reassure kids that even through the hardest times in life, God treasures us!

If a child brings up a serious issue, such as indicators of neglect, abuse, or violence they've experienced, say "Thank you for telling me about that. It's very important, and we need to talk about it with our VBS Director [or Children's Minister if he or she isn't the VBS Director] to give you a chance to say everything you need to say—and help you with your feelings." Involve the appropriate person at your church who can follow through with necessary steps after the conversation, as there is not only a moral but a legal obligation to report circumstances where a child might be in danger.

Closing Circle is where kids experience an exciting review of the day's lesson. Your role at Closing Circle is to

- ◆ sit with your Crew and participate in reviewing each day's Bible Point, Bible story, and Bible verse actions.
- ◆ make sure each child leaves with his or her craft, Bible Activity Pages, and Chewie sticker.
- ◆ collect name badges and Bible Memory Buddies and store them in your Crew bag.
- ◆ make sure children are picked up by a person designated to do so.

Crews Are Cool!

Crews are small groups of preschoolers who participate together at Treasured each day. Each Crew consists of up to five children and one Crew Leader. Because you are shepherding a small group, you can give each preschooler lots of attention, and discipline issues will decrease. Use the developmental information below to guide you as you work with preschoolers at VBS.



- **We're 3 years old.** We've just learned how to play together, and we're still learning how to share and take turns. It may be a little hard for us to change from one activity to the next, so give us plenty of warning ahead of time. We're generally happy and sometimes even silly, but we may be a little shy about trying new things. We enjoy playing games that involve moving and jumping around, but we may tire more quickly than our older playmates.



- **We're 4 years old.** We're full of imagination and excitement. We love to use our imaginations in make-believe play and art activities. We like to use loud voices and big movements. You may need to remind us to play quietly at Kinkajou Cove Preschool. We enjoy listening to Bible Adventures and answering interesting questions such as "What's your favorite animal that God made in our world?"



- **We're 5 years old.** We love to help our Crew Leaders and our other leaders. If you notice us helping, please tell us thank you. We're proud of the things we can do, but we're also sensitive. Other children may hurt our feelings by blurting out reactions to things we do. We're improving in our coordination. We can cut with scissors and color between the lines. We're also pretty good at throwing and catching balls.

Day 1

Bible Point: God knows you.

Bible Story: God identifies David as the future king. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

Bible Verse: “O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.” (Psalm 139:1)

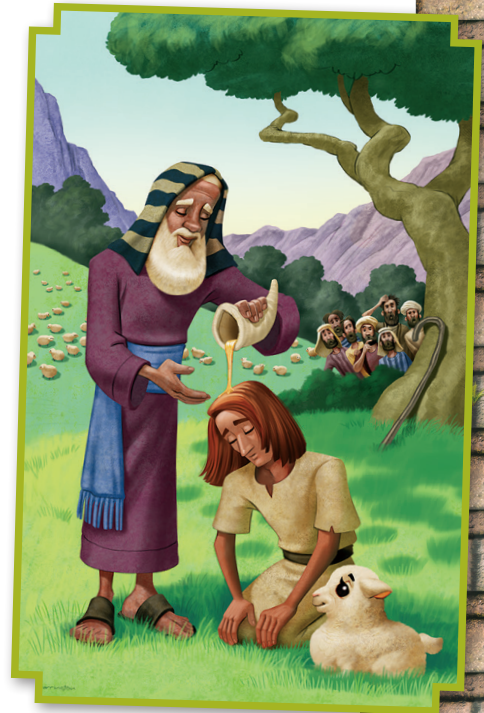
Consider This:

- ◆ Through the prophet Samuel, God warned his people of the hardships they’d endure at the hand of a king (1 Samuel 8:10-18). Yet their desire to be led by a human king—rather than by God—overtook Samuel’s candid cautions. So God gave them a king in Saul.
- ◆ King Saul’s initial humility soon transformed into hubris. He became rebellious and arrogant, leading God to choose a new leader for his people (1 Samuel 15:22-23).
- ◆ It’s unlikely that David’s family understood exactly the significance of Samuel’s anointing. For safety’s sake, Samuel wouldn’t have wanted to broadcast God’s designation of a new king while Saul still sat on the throne!
- ◆ Samuel showed his humanity when he evaluated each of Jesse’s sons based on outward appearance. God wasn’t interested in someone who *looked* like a king; God knew that David had the *heart* of a king!
- ◆ David ranked so low in his family that his father didn’t even invite him to the sacrifice with Samuel (1 Samuel 16:11). Instead, he tended the sheep—the job of a servant.
- ◆ Scholars estimate that David was about 10 to 15 years old when Samuel anointed him.

Why It Matters...

A recent survey found that more kids aspire to be a YouTube “star” than an astronaut, doctor, teacher, or musician. It’s no surprise that today’s kids crave fame and recognition. Yet as adults who love and lead kids, we need to ask “why?” *Why* do kids desperately desire to be known? What’s missing in their world? in their hearts?

In the technology-induced information overload, kids can feel invisible. Unimportant. Insignificant. That’s why today’s message brings hope! God, the creator of the universe, knows your heart. You can spark joy in kids as you affirm their value and visibility in God’s eyes. Kids don’t need to strive for celebrity when they discover that God knows and loves them.





Day 1

Bible Point:
God knows you.



God Sightings®

Every day at Treasured, kids and leaders will share evidence they've seen of God. We call these *God Sightings*, and they're an easy, practical, and powerful way to help kids realize that God is still active in our everyday lives. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

- ▶ Today help kids talk about things they wish others knew about them. Here are a few examples:
 - ◆ Today help kids talk about things they wish others knew about them. Here are a few examples:
 - ◆ Talk about things kids feel are special about them, such as having a kind heart or enjoying helping others.
 - ◆ Read or say aloud to them Bible verses that offer examples of how God knows them better than anyone—and loves them too.
 - ◆ Point out ways you see your Crew members getting to know each other better and learning to be a team.

Treasure Tip

- ▶ On this first day at Treasured, meet your Crew in the Kinkajou Cove Preschool area.
- ▶ Smile and introduce yourself.
- ▶ Be sure to learn and use the names of the kids in your Crew. Be sure they know your name, too.
- ▶ When Station Leaders ask you to "circle up with your Crew," that means to make a tight knee-to-knee circle for discussions. It's an easy way to help little ones focus in for a short time.



Info Gems From Your Director

Treasure Tip

A God Sighting is not "I see God in that tree." A God Sighting is "I see God's creativity and power because only God can make a tree." God Sightings are seeing things that God has created, allowed, provided, done, or revealed to us.



Day 2

Bible Point: God hears you.

Bible Story: David escapes Saul and writes psalms to God.
(1 Samuel 23:1-14; Psalm 86)

Bible Verse: "I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy."
(Psalm 116:1)

Consider This:

- ◆ Saul, jealous of David's popularity, kept David and his men on the run. But David repeatedly resisted opportunities to harm Saul, in spite of the danger he faced daily. Not only did David have to flee from Saul (his own king), but he also chose to fight the Philistines (his people's enemy) at the same time!
- ◆ Abiathar the priest brought the ephod to allow David to speak with and listen to God. A chestpiece attached to the ephod contained the Urim and Thummim (Exodus 28:30), small metal or stone objects. Priests used these to ask God "yes" or "no" questions, to seek his guidance and will.
- ◆ David posed no small threat to King Saul, since David's army numbered around 600 men!
- ◆ After David escaped Saul in Keilah, the Ziphites located David and planned to deliver him to Saul. During this time, David wrote Psalm 54, in which he cries out, "Listen to my prayer, O God. Pay attention to my plea."
- ◆ Scholars are unsure exactly how long David ran from Saul. However, some historians estimate it to be around seven years! During that time, David had countless reasons to call out to God in desperation, triumph, sorrow, and loneliness.
- ◆ Since some psalms don't list an author, it's unclear how many David wrote. However, Bible scholars believe the shepherd-king wrote at least 73 (and possibly more) of the 150 songs in this book!

Why It Matters...

Kids can tell you *exactly* what it's like to be ignored or unheard. They know what it feels like to talk to a busy parent or teacher who responds with a distracted "Mm-hmm." They've been that hand, waving in the air, that didn't get called on to share an answer. And even when someone *is* tuned in, kids may not have the words to express what they're feeling. What a gift to discover that God hears every whispered worry or spoken celebration. The God who treasures us is eagerly awaiting conversation with us! Today help kids realize that not only does God hear our voices...but God also hears our *hearts*!





Day 2

Bible Point:
God hears you.



God Sightings®

God Sightings are a great way to help kids see that God is active all around us. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

- ▶ Today help Crew members identify people who they know will always listen to them, or ways they know they've been heard. Here are a couple of examples:
 - ◆ Thank God for family members and friends who are always there to listen.
 - ◆ Keep watch for unique moments during the day, particularly during discussions with your Crew, where you can affirm how Crew members allow each other to talk and listen to each person. Ask them how it feels to know what they have to say matters in your Crew.

Info Gems From Your Director

Treasure Tip

- ▶ When you arrive on Days 2 through 5, go to the Sing & Play Rock area, and sit near the Crew sign that matches your assigned number or name. Wait to welcome your Crew members with a warm smile, and call children by name.
- ▶ It's possible that you'll have new children join your Crew. Be sure to welcome them warmly and introduce them to their Crew members—and to yourself!
- ▶ Participate in God Sightings—you're the chief encourager! Have fun with your Crew members as you look for God in action each day.
- ▶ You may want to leave Vine Dining Snacks with your Crew a few minutes early each day to allow time for a bathroom break and to avoid losing track of preschoolers in the mix of all the other Crews.



Day 3

Bible Point: God comforts you.

Bible Story: God reassures King Hezekiah. (2 Kings 18:5–19:34)

Bible Verse: “He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.”
(2 Corinthians 1:4)

Consider This:

- ◆ Hezekiah inherited a weakened realm, surrounded by powerful kingdoms such as Egypt and Assyria. Nevertheless, he immersed himself in repairing Jerusalem’s fortifications, manufacturing weapons, and overseeing the creation of the Siloam Tunnel to safeguard their water supply.
- ◆ The gold and silver tribute Hezekiah paid to the Assyrian king likely weighed about 26 tons!
- ◆ Not only did the Assyrian field commander hurl a hurricane of insults at Hezekiah, but he did it in Hebrew so Judah’s onlookers could understand every offensive word. At the time, Aramaic was the official language, so it’s surprising that this officer had such a mastery of Hebrew.
- ◆ Hezekiah responded dramatically to the Assyrian lies, threats, and insults. He clothed himself in sackcloth, as a sign of mourning. He headed to the temple and laid the offensive words before God. Then he cried out to God, imploring him to turn his eyes and ears toward his vulnerable children.
- ◆ Apparently the Assyrians had destroyed the surrounding farmland, prohibiting God’s people from planting adequate crops. Yet in 2 Kings 19:29, God promises that his people will have enough food to last two seasons. What a comforting assurance!

Why It Matters...

Though they may not be familiar with his story yet, the kids at your VBS can relate to Hezekiah. Maybe they’ve experienced a bully’s threats or felt the sting when a schoolmate spreads lies. It’s likely that they know what it’s like when circumstances seem too big and overwhelming and it feels like the world has turned against them. God doesn’t promise to take away our problems...but he *does* promise to be with us, holding us through each one. Today, share your own stories of how you’ve found comfort in God’s presence. As Isaiah did for Hezekiah, be the voice of God’s reassuring comfort when life’s worries press in.





Day 3

Bible Point:
God comforts you.



God Sightings®

Keep looking for evidence of God all around you. Throughout the day, point out opportunities for kids to step *outside* their comfort zones to lean on the comfort God has for them. Encourage kids to...

- ◆ get more involved during games or take on a role they wouldn't normally try in a game.
- ◆ share during Crew discussions if they're normally very quiet.
- ◆ give snack a try even if they're not sure they'll like it.

Info Gems From Your Director

Treasure Tip

- ▶ Remind preschoolers that the stories they're learning are from God's Word—the Bible—and these stories are true!
- ▶ As the week goes on, take time to get to know new Crew members and make them feel warmly welcomed into your Crew family.
- ▶ Be an example to your preschoolers of God's patient, listening ears.
- ▶ If you have time between stations, talk about how exciting it is that you're helping kids who need bug nets for their beds through Operation Kid-to-Kid!
- ▶ As the week progresses, preschoolers may get tired—or even more energetic! Remember to demonstrate God's love, kindness, gentleness, and patience with these little ones. They're learning so much about God... from you!



Day 4

Bible Point: God forgives you.

Bible Story: Jesus reinstates Peter. (John 18:1–21:19)

Bible Verse: “But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love.” (Nehemiah 9:17)

Consider This:

- ◆ Peter, whose name means “stone” or “rock,” had trouble displaying a firm faith. When Jesus first called him, Peter doubted Jesus’ wisdom (Luke 5:1-10). During a storm, he walked on stormy seas to be near Jesus...yet Jesus asked him, “Why did you doubt me?” (Matthew 14:27-31)
- ◆ Peter first denied Jesus when questioned by a seemingly powerless slave girl (John 18:15-18). Historians note that slave girls practically held the *least* amount of importance or influence in that time.
- ◆ Warming himself at a charcoal fire, Peter is questioned two more times and denies knowing Jesus each time. It’s interesting that John 21 records Jesus and Peter’s reunion after the resurrection at a charcoal fire as well!
- ◆ The first two times Jesus asks Peter “Do you love me?” he uses the word *agapeo* for “love,” which means a sacrificial love. In Peter’s response, he consistently uses the word *phileo* for “love,” which refers to an affectionate, friendly love. Scholars debate the reason the two different forms of “love” are used. Perhaps Peter is acknowledging his shortcomings compared to the overwhelming love displayed by Jesus.

Why It Matters...

Most children equate forgiveness with simply saying a hurried “I’m sorry” after they’ve wronged a friend or family member. Yet true forgiveness goes beyond mere words. It includes undeserved mercy, healing, renewal, and grace. Forgiveness means restoring brokenness and starting fresh. Kids may have *heard* about Jesus’ death on a cross, but it’s difficult to understand that God *required* such sacrifice for complete atonement.

Guide kids as they discover the life-changing truth that Jesus’ death provided a way for them to be with God forever. Use today’s lesson to show kids that God loves them enough to completely wipe away their wrongdoings, restoring a priceless friendship with our loving Father.





Day 4
Bible Point:
God forgives you.



Helping Children Follow Jesus

During the week, if you sense that a child might like to know more about what it means to believe in Jesus, give this simple explanation:

God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. But Jesus is stronger than death, and he came back to life! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. When we ask him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and fill our lives with his love. Jesus will always be with us and will help us make the right choices. When we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.

Be sure to share the news of the child's spiritual development with his or her parent(s).



God Sightings*

Today help your Crew members think of God Sightings that are reminders of how God forgives them.

- ◆ God gave us the ultimate gift and display of how he treasures us through his Son, Jesus, who bridges the gap our sin places between all of us and God. You'll have many opportunities to help this truth sink in during Bible Adventures & Missions and in the closing at Closing Circle.
- ◆ Help kids reflect on the lyrics of the song "You Say" and how God deeply knows and loves each child, no matter what.

Info Gems From Your Director



Day 5

Bible Point: God chooses you.

Bible Story: God chooses Esther to save her people. (Esther 2–8)

Bible Verse: “I have called you by name; you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1)

Consider This:

- ◆ During his reign, King Xerxes invaded Greece, using one of the largest armies in ancient history, as well as a sizable navy. Unfortunately, the invasion ultimately failed.
- ◆ Nebuchadnezzar captured Mordecai’s ancestors, taking them from Jerusalem into Babylon. In Daniel, you can read about a few other Bible heroes captured at the same time!
- ◆ Although the name of God is never mentioned openly in the book of Esther, it’s clear that Mordecai believed in God’s sovereign plan for placing Esther in the role of queen so she could save God’s people.
- ◆ Haman offered an enormous sum of money to the men who would annihilate the Jews. The sum of 10,000 talents of silver was nearly two-thirds of the annual income of the entire kingdom. Scholars assume this money would have come from the plunder taken from the slain Jews.
- ◆ King Xerxes gave Mordecai a distinctive honor when he allowed Mordecai to wear a robe the king had worn. In ancient times, such an act signified a sharing of the king’s power, status, and honor.
- ◆ The book of Esther ends with a festival called Purim. Today, Jews still celebrate Purim, usually in March. Leaders read the book of Esther in the synagogue. Congregants cheer when they hear Mordecai’s name and hiss when they hear Haman’s name.

Why It Matters...

Being chosen feels special, doesn’t it? But it’s likely that Esther felt unprepared for the task for which God chose her. As much as kids *love* being selected for something special, they *may* feel a bit like Esther when they’re called on to befriend a newcomer at school, stand up to a bully, or share their faith. Kids may wonder if God *really* knows what he’s doing...and if they *really* can do such bold feats. Yet God didn’t only choose to love us—he chooses each of us to do his amazing work! Use today’s activities to encourage kids that they’ve been handpicked by God to be an integral, important part of his kingdom work!





Day 5
Bible Point:
God chooses you.



God Sightings®

Today help preschoolers reflect on the whole week and how because God treasures each person, he also *chooses* each person.

- ◆ Offer very personal affirmations of character strengths you've seen in your Crew members as you've learned more about them this week and how God has chosen them to do special things in their lives because who he made them to be. Let them know God has chosen them to do amazing, *big* things right now, while they're little kids—not only when they're grown up.

Thank You to You!

Thanks for all you've done to help preschoolers discover that there isn't a gem, piece of silver or gold, or any amount of money that's as highly treasured as they are!

Info Gems From Your Director

Treasure Tip

- ▶ Find out if the kids in your Crew have age-appropriate Bibles or Christian music at home. Talk with your VBS Director about providing these basic resources for kids.
- ▶ Continue building friendships long after Treasured is over. Work with preschoolers and parents to fill out the "All About My Crew" information on each Crew member. After VBS, you'll be able to send postcards and birthday cards and greet kids who attend your church.
- ▶ Give each child his or her Bible Memory Buddies and other fun goodies from Treasured.
- ▶ Thank your Kinkajou Cove Preschool and VBS Directors for all they've done to demonstrate God's love to the kids in your community!



All About My Crew



Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

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Name: _____

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Family members: _____

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